

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS  
PURSUANT TO REVISED 37 CFR § 1.121**

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously presented) A seal assembly, comprising:

- a) a face seal made of elastomeric or thermoplastic material comprising a unitary seal ring bonded to a mounting ring wherein said seal ring comprises a contact surface with an inner peripheral edge and an outer peripheral edge, said contact surface further comprising textured features, formed by integrally molding said elastomeric or thermoplastic material, disposed interior to said outer peripheral edge said textured features comprising protrusions extending outward from the surface of said contact surface and;
- b) a second surface, said second surface being substantially flat and contacted with said protrusions of said contact surface of said face seal to produce a seal comprising a region of intensified contact interior to the outer peripheral edge that redirects incoming dirt and debris away from the region of intensified contact.

52. (Previously presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said protrusions have recesses.

53. (Previously presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said protrusions have a shape selected from the group consisting of: cylindrical, trapezoidal, rectangular, elliptical, spherical, conoidal, quonset-shaped, conical or discus.

54. (Previously presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein the spacing of each of said textured features is equidistant.

- 55. (Previously presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said outer peripheral edge is curved.
- 56. (Previously presented) The seal assembly of claim 51, wherein said outer peripheral edge is raised.
- 57. (New) A method for making a face seal comprising,
  - a) providing:
    - i) a seal made of elastomeric or thermoplastic material comprising a unitary seal ring bonded to a mounting ring wherein said seal ring comprises a contact surface with an inner peripheral edge and an outer peripheral edge, said contact surface further comprising textured features, formed by integrally molding said elastomeric or thermoplastic material, disposed interior to said outer peripheral edge said textured features comprising protrusions extending outward from the surface of said contact surface; and
    - ii) a substantially flat second surface; and
  - b) contacting said second surface with said protrusions of said contact surface under conditions such that a face seal is produced having a region of intensified contact interior to the outer peripheral edge that redirects incoming dirt and debris away from said region of intensified contact.